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The Lover's Rosary is a series of fifty-nine sonnets, dealing, first, in "Pearls," with the several turns and phases of a wooing; and afterward, in "Ashes," with the sense of physical loss and spiritual gain experienced by the bereaved lover. The form is a sequence of sonnets, tied together by repetitive rhyming. The work, although above the low level of much contemporary verse, is not convincing as poetry.

The third volume in this group has little to recommend it. These thirty-six "sailor rhymes" are crudely and effortfully expressed, and their appearance in book form is without adequate justification.

G. H. C.

A GRAY DREAM AND OTHER STORIES OF NEW ENGLAND LIFE. By Laura Wolcott. New Haven: Yale University Press.

The author of these sketches "knew New England, not as an onlooker, but as a partaker of its life, which she shared for more than eighty years. But while she delighted in its manner of speech and all its little daily ways, she saw its life also in the light of a large setting; as a child wandering out into the morning sees its own familiar little places bright with the hopes and adventures of a great world. In these stories meagre, unknown lives, hidden away among the New England hills, narrowed and hampered in many a way, give out their own note of joy and triumph. To one with seeing eyes, who knows what has gone into the making of such lives, and under what great skies all lives dwell, they shine out, like the papers in the box labeled 'signal failures,' touched with vitality and beauty—part of the great heart of things." Such is the comment in the Introduction which gives us the clue to this finely spiritual book. Laura Wolcott was the wife of Governor Morris of Connecticut. For years she wrote for the *New York Evening Post*, and at times was "The Spectator" in *The Outlook*.

VERGIL AND THE ENGLISH POETS. By Elizabeth Nitchie. Pp. ix+251. New York: The Columbia University Press.

This monograph, although at times a little amateurish in style and comment, exhibits both patience and discernment in its effort to trace, within reasonable limits and with just regard for emphasis and proportion, the influence of the great Mantuan

upon the development of English poetry. The most interesting examinations, of course, are those dealing with the work of Chaucer (with a capably devised table), Spenser, Milton, Thomson and Tennyson. The chapters on "The Mediæval Tradition" and "Vergil and Humanism" are careful and useful, and the discussion of Vergilian influence on *Beowulf*, in the former chapter, is refreshingly sound. It is to be regretted, however, that Dr. Nitchie allows herself, especially in the Introduction, to use frequently such elastic terms as "splendid," "wonderfully," "remarkable," "full perfection," "marvellous," "astonishing," etc. In general, indeed, she shows herself more at home as a recorder of results than as an interpretative appraiser of them. The volume properly closes with a comparison (perhaps somewhat too ardently expressed) between Vergil and Tennyson.

G. H. C.

THE ASHLEY-SMITH EXPLORATIONS AND THE DISCOVERY OF A CENTRAL ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC, 1822-1829, with the Original Journals edited by Harrison Clifford Dale. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company. 1918. Pp. 352.

It has heretofore been the orthodox method of writing American history—at any rate in our school and college text-books—to make the story of the great trans-Mississippi country begin with the Mexican War and the rush of the Forty-Niners to California. For some time past a wholesome reaction against this provincial point of view has set in. A host of writers and editors, such as H. H. Bancroft, Elliott Cones, R. G. Thwaites, H. M. Chittenden, Joseph Schafer, *et al.*, acting independently, or in conjunction with the great historical societies of the Mississippi Valley and of the Pacific Slope, have set forth the adventures of the early Western explorers or edited their journals.

With but very few exceptions these early adventurers have not been scientists or professional geographers. Almost to a man they have been missionaries, trappers or traders; that is, in the words of Professor Dale, "men who have entered a hitherto unknown region, not with the object of adding to the stock of human knowledge about the face of the earth, but . . . for a distinct personal object, the attainment of which demanded their penetration of the unknown." Fur traders and fur trappers